

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10

L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0760

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0500

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: STRENGTH OF US FORCES IN THE NGA

REF: VIENNA 3241

1. PREVIOUS MESSAGES HAVE POINTED OUT OUR CONCERN ABOUT BEING CAUGHT AT SOME AGREEMENT DATE AT A BELOW-AUTHORIZED STRENGTH LEVEL, AND HENCE TAKING ANY AGREED REDUCTION FROM THIS LOWER BASE. THIS, IN EFFECT, WOULD INCREASE THE SIZE OF OUR REDUCTION OR, TO SAY IT ANOTHER WAY, WOULD LEAVE US FEWER TROOPS IN EUROPE.

2. OUR LATEST STRENGTH REPORTS INDICATE THAT AMERICAN GROUND FORCES IN THE NGA ARE NOW ABOUT 10,000 UNDER STRENGTH, AND AIR FORCES ARE DOWN ABOUT 2,000.

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3. EVEN THOUGH ALL ALLIES REJECT THE CURRENT PACT FREEZE PROPOSAL, IT IS BEING PUSHED HARD BY THE PACT AND APPARENTLY HAS AT LEAST A LIMITED APPEAL IN SOME NATO CIRCLES.

4. IN ANY EVENT, THIS FREEZE PROPOSAL REINFORCES OUR CONCERN, AND LEADS ME ONCE AGAIN TO RECOMMEND THAT US GROUND AND AIR FORCES IN THE NGA BE BROUGHT UP TO THEIR AUTHORIZED LEVELS (193,000 AND 34,000) AND KEPT THERE, LEST WE BE CAUGHT BY A FREEZE, AND FORCED TO TAKE A REDUCTION FROM THE ACTUAL PRESENT FOR DUTY STRENGTH, VISIBLY SMALLER BASE. RESOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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